



## Safeguarding Animal Health to Protect Consumers

The average American consumes nearly 200 pounds of meat and fish, 30 pounds of eggs, and 600 pounds of dairy products each year. To ensure that these animal-derived foods are safe, the FDA's **Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM)** regulates all **animal drugs and feed**, and works to increase the availability of products to sustain the health, relieve the suffering, and increase the productivity of all **farm animals**.

CVM also evaluates the safety and effectiveness of drugs used to treat more than one hundred million **pets**. Nearly 300 drugs currently on the market have been approved by the FDA for America's dogs, cats and horses.

CVM has three top priorities:

- **Prevent** bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the "mad cow disease".
- **Counter** the risk of food-associated antibiotic resistance in humans.
- **Ensure** the safety of food derived from genetically modified animals.



**BSE**, which has infected more than 180,000 cattle in Europe, is believed to be caused

by proteins in animal feed that harbor the infectious agent. To prevent this disease from emerging in the United States, CVM issued a regulation in 1997 that prohibits the inclusion of most mammalian protein in feed for cattle, sheep, goats and other ruminants. To achieve a full compliance with the feed regulation, CVM and state feed control specialists have conducted nearly **10,000 inspections** of animal feed production facilities and ruminant feeders. Many more are planned.



The suspected link between **antibiotic resistance in humans** and the use of antimicrobials in food animals is supported by a growing body of evidence and therefore is an important public health concern. CVM is conducting risk assessments to help evaluate new food animal antimicrobials as well as drugs of this type that are already on the market.



**Genetically engineered animals**, such as a fast-growing salmon, are part of a growing global effort to produce less expensive, high-quality food. CVM has accepted the challenge of developing the necessary expertise, regulations, and produc-

tion guidances to ensure that foods derived from genetically modified animals are safe, nutritious and wholesome.

Whether reviewing or monitoring animal drugs, conducting research, or developing and disseminating information, CVM's 300 veterinarians, chem-

### How CVM Approves Animal Drugs

CVM approves drugs for food animals for either over-the-counter sale or for use under a veterinarian's prescription. In both cases, the approval is based on scientific determination that no unsafe residues or metabolites will result when the drug is used in the approved manner, and all important safety factors are considered when setting the approved levels of use.

ists, animal scientists, toxicologists, and microbiologists are committed to the important goal of protecting animal and human health throughout the United States.

**For more information**, please call CVM at 301-827-3800 or visit the FDA Web site at [www.fda.gov/cvm](http://www.fda.gov/cvm).